

Message Text

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DRAFTED BY S/ L RICHARDSON
APPROVED BY P:- MR. NEWSOM
ARA:TTODMAN
S/S-O:SRPVALERGA
NSC-RAPASTOR

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY CARACAS
INFO USMISSION GENEVA

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 100206

STADIS/////////////////////////////////
EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PLOS

SUBJECT: LAW OF THE SEA

REF: CARACAS 3206 GENEVA 5279

1. FOLLOWING MESSAGE IS FROM AMBASSADOR RICHARDSON FOR
AMBASSADOR VAKY:

A. AFTER CONSIDERABLE THOUGHT AND DISCUSSION, I HAVE CON-
CLUDED THAT THIS IS NOT THE MOST PROPITIOUS MOMENT AT
WHICH TO BRING ABOUT A HIGH-LEVEL MEETING WITH THE GOV ON
LOS MATTERS. ALTHOUGH AGUILAR WAS THE MOST POWERFUL MOV-
ING FORCE IN UNITING THE LATIN AMERICAN GROUP AGAINST THE
AFRICANS AND ASIANS ON THE ISSUE OF THE PRESIDENCY AND IS
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STILL THE BITTEREST OF AMERASINGHE'S CRITICS, AMERASINGHE
IS NOW FULLY IN CHARGE, AND THE LATIN HARDLINERS HAVE NOT
ONLY PLEDGED THEIR COOPERATION, BUT ARE IN FACT COOPERATING.

B. AGUILAR MEANWHILE RETAINS, FOR ALL PRACTICAL PURPOSES,
COMPLETE CONTROL OF THE ISSUES THAT HAVE TRADITIONALLY
FALLEN UNDER THE JURISDICTION OF THE SECOND COMMITTEE. AL-

THOUGH SOME OF THE MOST DIFFICULT PROBLEMS STILL CONFRONT-
ING THE CONFERENCE BELONG IN THIS CATEGORY, NOTABLY THE
LL/GDS ISSUE, NONE IS OF MAJOR CONCERN TO THE USA. AND

WHILE VENEZUELAN SPOKESMEN TEND TO TAKE A HARD LINE ON
DEEP SEABED MINING, WHICH IS OF MAJOR CONCERN TO US, THERE
HAVE THUS FAR BEEN NO SUBSTANTIVE NEGOTIATIONS ON THIS
SUBJECT IN THE CURRENT SESSION. IT SEEMS UNLIKELY, MORE-
OVER, THAT AGUILAR WOULD ATTEMPT TO OBSTRUCT THE EFFORTS
OF OTHERS, INCLUDING THE AFRO-ASIAN MODERATES, TO PROMOTE
REASONABLE COMPROMISES ON SEABEDS ISSUES. INDEED, HE IS
ASTUTE ENOUGH TO REALIZE THAT ANY SUCH ATTEMPT ON HIS PART
WOULD PROBABLY DO US MORE GOOD THAN HARM. HE WOULD BE APT,
FINALLY, TO RESENT ANY ATTEMPT TO INDUCE MORE POSITIVE CO-
OPERATION ON HIS PART BY GOING OVER HIS HEAD. AGUILAR AND
I ARE IN FREQUENT CONTACT AND ON REASONABLY CORDIAL TERMS,
AND I THINK HE WOULD BE JUSTIFIED IN WONDERING WHY I HAD
NOT DEALT WITH HIM DIRECTLY.

C. UNDER ALL THE CIRCUMSTANCES, I THINK WE SHOULD HOLD OFF
ANY NEW APPROACH TO THE GOV UNTIL WE KNOW WHAT WE ARE ASK-
ING FOR AND HAVE A PLAUSIBLE JUSTIFICATION FOR GOING TO
THE TOP. PLEASE LET ME KNOW IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTION OR
RESERVATION ABOUT THIS CONCLUSION. WITH WARM REGARDS,
ELLIOT.

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2. DEPARTMENT CONCURS.

CHRISTOPHER

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NNN

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